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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,498	11/21/2001	Yue Ma	9432-000145	3411

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HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

DATE MAILED: 07/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No. 09/990,498	Applicant(s) MA ET AL.	
	Examiner Jimmy H. Nguyen	Art Unit 2629	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Jimmy H. Nguyen. (3) _____.

(2) Jennifer Brooks (applicants' rep.). (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 27 June 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: New claims 31-37.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.


Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Examiner agreed that new claims 31-37 in the draft amendment attached hereto do not raise the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

31. (New) A whiteboard notes processing method, comprising:

scanning whiteboard notes from a dry erase surface of a whiteboard, including scanning handwritten text and a hand drawn circle created by human application of a whiteboard pen dispensing erasable ink to the dry erase surface, thereby converting the whiteboard notes into scanned notes in digital form;

detecting a circled region in the scanned notes, said circled region including said handwritten text and said hand drawn circle;

in response to detection of the circled region in the scanned notes, extracting said circled region from the scanned notes and removing the hand drawn circle from the circled region;

creating a header for the scanned notes by performing handwriting recognition on the handwritten text of the circled region, creating corresponding recognized text, and using the recognized text as the header; and

associating the header with the scanned notes in computer memory.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising displaying the header on a digital display for selection by a user.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising, in response to user selection of the header, plotting the scanned notes as machine-drawn marks to the dry erase surface of the whiteboard, thereby recreating the whiteboard notes.

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34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said plotting the scanned notes includes using a plotter machine applying a whiteboard pen dispensing erasable ink to the dry erase surface of the whiteboard.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising, in response to user selection of the header, sending the notes via email or fax.

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36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said removing the hand drawn circle from the circled region comprises:

moving a scan line in a plane of the circled region containing the hand drawn circle in a first direction;

scanning the circled region in a second direction, wherein the second direction lies in a complementary fashion to the first direction in the plane of the circled region;

detecting non-background pixels within the scan line corresponding to the hand drawn circle; and

erasing the non-background pixels.

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37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said removing the hand drawn circle from the circled region further comprises:

detecting a first non-background pixel within the scan line, wherein the first non-background pixel corresponds to the non-background pixel first detected in a first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a first background pixel within the scan line, wherein the first background pixel corresponds to the background pixel first detected after detection of the first non-background pixel in the first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a second non-background pixel within the scan line, wherein the second non-background pixel corresponds to the non-background pixel last detected in the first linear scan of all pixels in the scan line;

detecting a second background pixel within the scan line, wherein the second background pixel corresponds to the background pixel first detected in a second linear scan of pixels in the scan line, wherein the second linear scan starts at the second non-background pixel and proceeds in a direction opposite to the first linear scan;

removing the first non-background pixel;

removing all non-background pixels between the first non-background pixel and the first background pixel;

removing the second non-background pixel; and

removing all non-background pixels between the second non-background pixel and the second background pixel.

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